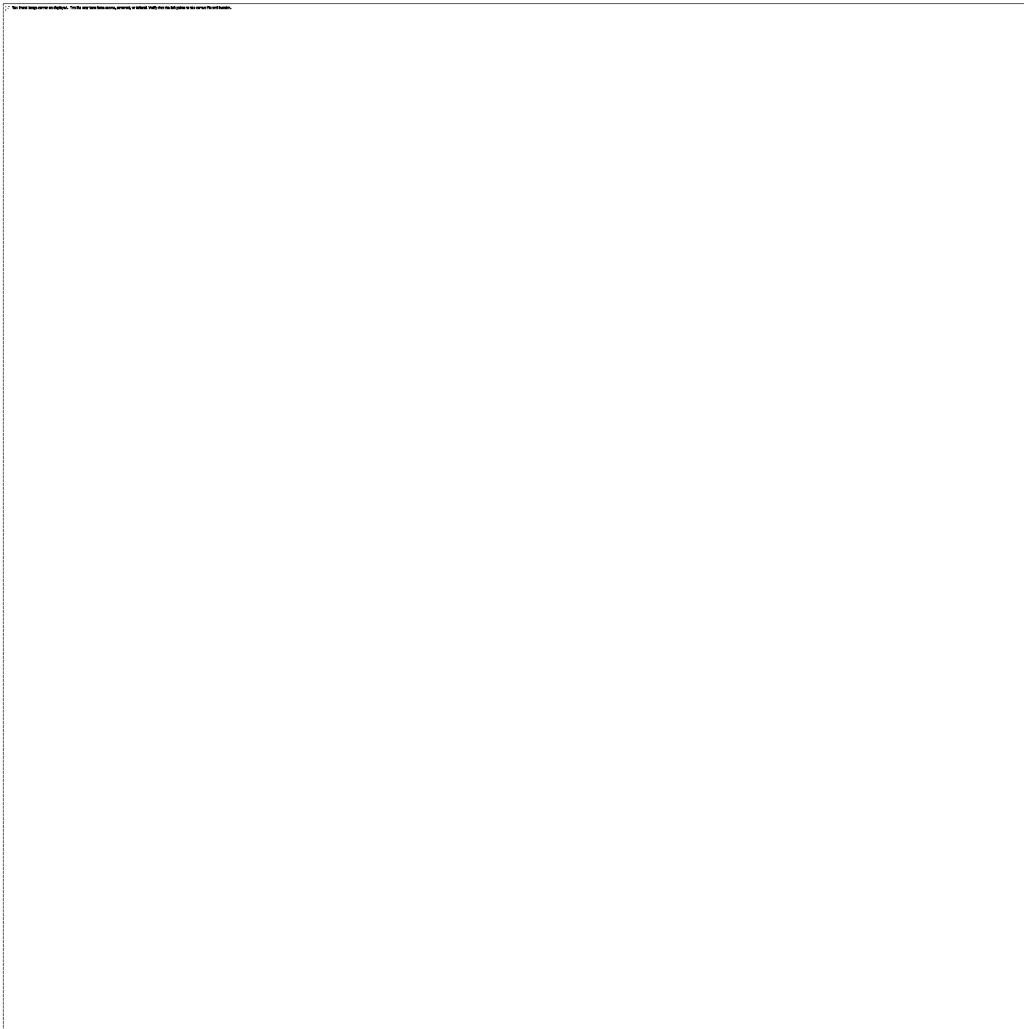**From:** FedScoop [news@fedscoop.com]
Sent: 1/19/2021 10:06:50 AM
To: Starfield, Lawrence [Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov]
Subject: Biden calls for 'most ambitious effort ever' to modernize federal IT

USDS's latest pilot to disrupt federal hiring. A shift in DOD's cloud office.

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TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 2021

$9B for the TMF under Biden?

Behind COVID-19 response and the corresponding economic rescue, IT and cybersecurity modernization are perhaps two of the biggest priorities for the incoming Biden administration. The president-elect's transition team issued a fact sheet last week previewing its plans, "calling on Congress to launch the most ambitious effort ever to modernize and secure federal IT and networks." Under that, the administration wants to fund the Technology Modernization Fund to the tune of $9 billion. **Billy Mitchell has more.**

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USDS's latest effort to reform IT hiring

The U.S. Digital Service recently launched a hiring announcement for data scientists across 10 agencies, and in less than 48 hours, the 500-applicant limit was reached. Using what it calls an SME Qualification Assessment (SMEQA) pilot, USDS hopes to prove that the federal government can hire tech talent similar to how companies do in the private sector, with short resumes and interviews conducted by subject matter experts. Now subject matter experts and human resources specialists will set about assessing whether each applicant qualifies for one of the 63 openings between the agencies. **Dave Nyczepir has the scoop.**

DISA takes over cloud office from DOD CIO

The Pentagon's cloud office, which operates programs like the $10 billion Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) cloud acquisition, is moving to the Defense Infrastructure Systems Agency (DISA). The move is mostly administrative, a DOD spokesperson told FedScoop. The physical office will remain in Arlington instead of being physically moved to Fort Meade, and no personnel impacts will result from the change. **Jackson has the inside story.**

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CISA issues recommendations to strengthen cloud security

Speaking of cloud computing, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure
Security Agency issued a new analysis report that outlines security
practices for organizations that use cloud services. These security
practices, CISA says, are particularly important as remote work
becomes a more permanent practice for the federal government.
The analysis was not explicitly tied to the SolarWinds Orion
software compromise, though CISA has been assisting agencies
and other affected organizations with the fallout from that attack.
Sara Wilson has the report.

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